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Georgia Southern University Ranked As One of the Most Popular in the U.S.

JANUARY 24, 2011

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Georgia Southern University has been named the fourth most popular university in the country by U.S. News and World Report. Georgia Southern joins Harvard University, Stanford University, and others in the rankings that feature the Top 20 most popular universities based on yield (the number of students who apply and then opt to enroll).

Georgia Southern was ranked as the fourth most popular university in the country behind Brigham Young, Harvard and Stanford Universities and came in ahead of Ivy League schools Princeton and Yale. Georgia Southern University was the only school in the state of Georgia and one of only three in the southeast to make the list.

"This is the latest example of Georgia Southern University's continued climb in enrollment, academic quality and national reputation and proves what thousands of Georgia Southern

University students and alumni have known for decades," said University President Brooks Keel, Ph.D. "Georgia Southern provides its students with an excellent education on one of the most beautiful campuses in the United States. The fact that nearly 70 percent of the students we accept decide to attend Georgia Southern is a testament to the greatness of this University."

U.S. News and World Report's rankings were taken from the fall 2009 class, where 68.7 percent of students who were accepted by the University decided to attend Georgia Southern.

"During our admissions process we work very hard to make sure students and their families not only learn about our University, but begin to feel a part of Georgia Southern," said Teresa Thompson, University vice president for student affairs and enrollment management. "Georgia Southern has become recognized for offering all of the benefits of a major university with the feeling of a much smaller college. Central to our success is our focus on the student provided by our outstanding faculty and staff. It's not just a saying or a catch phrase for us. We live it and prospective students and their parents are noticing in record numbers."

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Georgia Southern University will host "America's Most Trusted Man" Frank Warren for a special presentation at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 2, in the Performing Arts Center Theatre.

Creator of the PostSecret Project, Warren will share with guests the unheard voices and untold stories discovered during the last six years, and he will address the important issue his blog supports — suicide awareness and prevention. His lecture will also be available via simulcast in the Performing Arts Lecture Hall, and following the event attendees can purchase signed copies of his books. The event is free and open to the campus and local community.

Todd Deal, professor and director of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement, said the initial response to bringing Warren on campus was overwhelmingly enthusiastic and positive, and he believes the event's focus will inspire students and others in the audience to make a difference.

"We found that what is now PostSecret.com started as a community art project. One of the pieces that grew out of that initial idea is a focus on suicide prevention," Deal explained. "From an idea to serve others to a national effort to address a critical social issue – that is the sort of leadership that we seek to showcase as the type of viable, civically engaged leadership that makes a difference in the world."

Warren gained recognition in 2004 when he invited people from around the world to send him creative postcards bearing never-revealed secrets to be featured in a special blog. His idea was to create an art-based community project to provide an anonymous medium of expression and honesty, safe from judgment.

Since PostSecret's inception, Warren has received more than 400,000 postcards, with topics ranging from deep family secrets, criminal activity, secret habits and fears to funny reflections and hidden acts of kindness. His efforts have helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline.



In 2009, Forbes listed Warren as the fourth most influential person on the Internet. His award-winning online blog, which now garners views from more than seven million people each month, is one of the most popular on the Web, and has been featured in USA Today, on "The Today Show,"

"20/20," CNN, MSNBC, CBC, NPR and FOX News. The creatively illustrated secrets have been featured in an international traveling art exhibit, and in four bestselling books: PostSecret, My Secret, The Secret Lives of Men and Women, and A Lifetime of Secrets.

The event is sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the University Wellness Program and the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement.

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"O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree..." 🎄🎵#TBT to circa 1964, when a tree in front of the Williams Center was decorated for the holidays.



14h

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